

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system comprising:
  - a plurality of printed circuit assemblies including at least one host processor card;
  - a management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies, the management card dedicated to monitoring and managing operation of the server system, including monitoring and managing on-line insertion and removal of the printed circuit assemblies.
2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card includes a management processor and a LAN switch, the LAN switch coupled to management connections of the at least one host processor card, and management connections of the management processor.
3. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising a backplane for connecting the plurality of printed circuit assemblies to the management card.
4. The server system of claim 3, wherein the at least one host processor card is configured to communicate status information to the management card via at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus routed through the backplane.
5. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising:
  - at least one cooling fan;
  - at least one temperature sensor; and
  - the management card configured to adjust the speed of the at least one cooling fan based on temperature data provided by the at least one temperature sensor.
6. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises:
  - a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.

7. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises:  
a plurality of serial ports for communicating with the management card.
8. A method of managing a server system comprising:  
providing a plurality of host processor cards for running customer operating systems and applications;  
providing a dedicated management card that does not run customer operating systems and applications; and  
monitoring and managing operation of the plurality of host processor cards with the dedicated management card, including monitoring and managing hot swapping of the host processor cards.
9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:  
monitoring management LAN communications of the plurality of host processor cards with the management card.
10. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:  
transmitting status information from the plurality of host processor cards to the management card via at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus.
11. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:  
monitoring the temperature of the server system with the management card; and  
adjusting the speed of at least one cooling fan with the management card based on temperature data.
12. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:  
providing status information on the management card via a plurality of LEDs.

13. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:  
communicating with the management card via at least one of a plurality of serial ports on the management card.
14. A management-dedicated server management card for a server system having a plurality of removable cards, the server management card comprising:  
a memory for storing server management software; and  
a controller coupled to the plurality of removable cards for monitoring and managing operation of the server system based on the server management software, the controller providing hot-swap functionality for the plurality of removable cards.
15. The server management card of claim 14, wherein the server management card includes a LAN switch, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and management connections of at least one of the plurality of removable cards for monitoring management LAN communications.
16. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:  
at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus link coupled to the controller for receiving status information from the plurality of removable cards.
17. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:  
an input for receiving server temperature information, the controller configured to adjust the speed of at least one server cooling fan based on received server temperature information.
18. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:  
a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.
19. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:

a plurality of serial ports for transmitting and receiving serial communications.